

REMARKS

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of its length. The Abstract has been amended to be less than 150 words.

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application. New claims 28-35 are presented for consideration. Claims 2-5 are cancelled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 14-27.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,381,642 (Bono).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 6-13 and favorable consideration of new claims 28-35 are requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to characterize the first and second flexing regions as connected by a hinge portion. The body has a length, with the first and second flexing regions spaced from each other lengthwise of the body. The body has a cross-sectional area as viewed in a plane extending transversely to the length of the body. The hinge portion has a cross-sectional area that is less than the cross-sectional area of first and second portions of the body that are spaced from each other lengthwise of the body and between which the hinge portion resides.

Bono is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of a corresponding hinge portion.

Claims 6-13 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over the cited prior art.

Claim 28 is similar to claim 1, as originally presented. Claim 28 additionally characterizes the body as having a thickness in a radial direction relative to a central axis for a thread receiving receptacle. The body is characterized as having a non-uniform

thickness as a result of which at least a portion of the second flexing region is more flexible in bending relative to the first flexing region than the first flexing region is flexible in bending relative to the mounting portion.

Bono does not teach or suggest a non-uniform thickness as recited in claim 28.

Claim 29 depends from claim 28 and characterizes at least a portion of the second flexing region as having a thickness that is less than the thickness of the first flexing region.

Claim 30 depends from claim 29 and characterizes the first flexing region as having a first thickness over a majority of the first flexing region. The second flexing region is characterized as having a second thickness over a majority of the second flexing region. The second thickness is less than the first thickness.

Claim 31 includes the limitations originally presented in claim 1. Claim 31 further characterizes the first and second flexing regions as connected by a discrete hinge portion at which the second flexing region bends in a predetermined manner relative to the first flexing region.

Bono is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of any such hinge portion.

Claim 32 depends from claim 31 and characterizes the body as having a cross-sectional area as viewed in a plane extending transversely to the length of the body. The cross-sectional area of the hinge portion is characterized as locally reduced.

Claim 33 recites a second discrete hinge portion defined on the body.

Claim 34 incorporates a number of the limitations of claim 1, with the exception that the flexing portion is not defined to include first and second flexing regions, with the first surface defined on the second flexing region. Claim 34 further recites that the body has a discrete hinge portion at which the body bends in a predetermined manner to allow the

at least one of the first and second surfaces to be moved selectively towards and away from the other of the first and second surfaces.

Bono lacks any teaching or suggestion of a corresponding discrete hinge portion.

Claim 35 corresponds to originally presented claim 1 and further recites that the body has a cross-sectional area as viewed in a plane extending transversely to the length of the body that is other than square or rectangular.

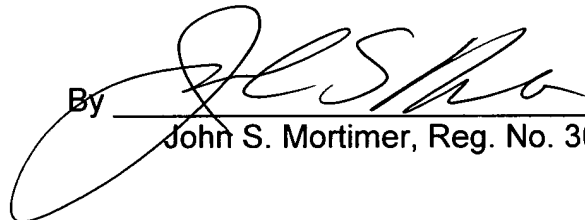
Bono teaches only a rectangular cross-sectional area.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 6-13, favorable consideration of new claims 28-35, and allowance of the case are requested.

The extra claim fee of \$221.00 is enclosed. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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